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PATENT  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
James H. PICKAR et al. ) Group Art Unit: 1617  
Application No.: 09/808,878 ) Examiner: Shengjun WANG  
Filed: March 15, 2001 )  
For: HORMONE REPLACEMENT ) Confirmation No.: 5270  
THERAPY )

Attention: Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**REPLY BRIEF UNDER RULE § 41.41**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 41.41, Appellants present this Reply to the Examiner's Answer dated February 24, 2006. If any fees are required in connection with the filing of this paper, Appellants request that the required fees be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

**I. Status of Rejection**

In response to the Appeal Brief filed November 14, 2005 the Office has maintained the rejection of claims 7, 11, 12, and 69 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Plunkett et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,826,831 (RE 36,247)) ("Plunkett").